

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

The transmission system 9 has branches 5, 6, 7, 8. These branches 5, 6, 7, 8 are connected, for example, with other control units, operation and observation systems, etc. Through a connection with line 7, the data transmission system 9 is linked to the World Wide Web (i.e., the Internet or an Intranet)²⁰. For example, the transmission system may comprise a data processing unit acting as a server with access to the Internet.

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

One unique feature of the system shown in Figure 1 is that the control unit 1 comprises transmitting device 21, which accesses a communication infrastructure in the form of a data transmission system 9, which is typically preexisting within a company or other user employing a system in accordance with the invention. The transmitting and/or receiving device 21/18 works in conjunction with standard e-mail or similar message tools, such as ~~Microsoft Exchange~~ MICROSOFT EXCHANGE™, etc.

Please replace the first full paragraph appearing on page 8 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 2a shows an example of the basic structure of an alarm message 3, such as it can be displayed in accordance with an embodiment of the invention, for instance, on a screen by

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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means of the control unit and/or the receiving device 2 of Figure 1. Message 3 has an identification field 11 and a text field 16. The identification field 11 comprises an address field 13, a sender field 15, a reference field ~~12-19a or 19b~~ and a date and time field 14 to indicate the transmission date and time of the message 3, which as a rule is automatically assigned by the e-mail server. The address field 13 indicates the address of the recipient(s) 2, delivery to which the message 3 is intended. The sender field 15 indicates the sender, i.e. the control unit, that issues message 3. The transmission date and time field 14 shows the date and time of the generation of message 3, whereas the reference field ~~12-19a~~ carries an identification ~~19a-~~uniquely assigned to each alarm.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 8-9 with the following amended paragraph:

The structure of message 3 depicted in Figure 2a may correspond to the familiar structure of known e-mail tools, such as ~~Microsoft Exchange~~ MICROSOFT EXCHANGE™. This known structure is adapted to the special tasks of issuing a fault or alarm message in that the e-mail message is automatically generated and the individual entries in address field 13, sender field 15 and reference field ~~12-19a or 19b~~ are automatically generated when message 3 is generated.

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Please replace the first full paragraph appearing on page 9 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 2b shows the basic structure of an acknowledgment, or Reply Message, 10 in accordance with the present invention. The basic structure of the acknowledgement 10 corresponds to that of message 3, as shown in Figure 2a. Acknowledgment 10, similar to the message 3, has an identification field 11 and a text field 17. The address field 13 of acknowledgment 10 contains the addressee “SPC Stored Program Controller 101” contained in message 3, whereas the sender field 15 contains the sender identification, in this case “Control Center.” Reference field 12—19b contains an acknowledgment identification—19b, which corresponds to, and is transferred from, the message identification 19a of message 3. Text field 17 in the example shown in Figure 2b contains reply text which can be automatically input via recipient’s predefined rules, or it can be manually input via the recipient. The reply text may further include control commands in a programming language, which are provided to control the control unit 1. For example, within acknowledgment message 10, software commands can be included that, upon receipt by control unit 1, are implemented using a processor or other similar device, to carry out specific actions. The actions implemented by the software commands can, for example, directly address the event which caused the generation of message 3, or they can be directed to carrying out additional functions, such as notifying other recipients, etc.

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Please replace the first full paragraph appearing on page 10 with the following amended paragraph:

In summary, the invention relates to a system, a method and a control unit for generating a message, particularly an alarm message of a control unit 1 of an automation system 4. Simplified use of existing transmission means is proposed such that message 3 of a control unit 1 is transmitted as an e-mail message via an Intranet and/or the Internet 20 to a predetermined receiving device 2. In an advantageous embodiment, control unit 1 enters a message identification 19a individually assigned to each message 3 in an identification field 19a_12 of message 3. After receipt of message 3, the receiving device 2 sends an acknowledgment 10 to control unit 1, which includes identification 19a associated with the underlying message 3 as acknowledgment identification 19b. By comparing the acknowledgment identification 19b contained in acknowledgment 10 with the message identification 19a contained in the transmitted message 3, acknowledgment 10 can be uniquely assigned to the transmitted message.